lands all over the country; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons to take such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIFF): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Import of Locomotives

406. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are importing Railway locomotives;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether indigenous locomotive manufacturing units have enough capacity to manufacture locomotives required for our Railways; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The technology used in electric locomotives presently manufactured in the country is of 1960 vintage. Import of a few 6000 HP electric locomotives having the latest state of the art technology, with transfer of technology for serious manufacture of locomotives at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works has been considered necessary to upgrade the locomotive fleet of Indian Railways.

(c) The capacity of indigenous locomotive manufacturing units is marginally short of requirements and is being augmented.

(d) 30 nos. (20 freight and 10 passenger) of 6000 HP Electric locomotives having GTO thyristor based 3-phase asynchronous motor drive and micro-processor control are being imported, with transfer of technology for series manufacture of these locomotives at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works.

Electrification of Railway Lines in Punjab

407. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total length of railway line in Punjab that has been electrified so far and what are the details of the lines proposed to be electrified during the current financial year;

(b) what are the details of other lines in Punjab that are proposed to be taken up for Electrification during the coming year; and

(c) by when the Delhi-Amritsar line would be fully electrified?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) Electrification of Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana section of which Sambhu-Ludhiana (108 kms) is in the State of Punjab is in progress and is polanned for completion by March, 97, subject to availabiiity of resources.

There is, at present, no proposal to extend electrification beyond Ludhiana to Amritsar.

Running of new trains between Guruvayoor and Nagercoil

408. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways introduced a new train between Guruvayoor and Nagercoil;

(b) whether Government have studied about the feasibility of extending this train upto Kanyakumari; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Extension of the train upto Kanyakumari is not commercially justified, besiedes posing operational constraints.